

Adaptation of *Magruder's 2005 American Government*

Class Notes

Baldwin County High School

Bay Minette, Alabama

Ch 2, Sec 4

**Creating the Constitution**

**1. What convened on May 25, 1787?**

The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Convention, a gathering that became known as the **Constitutional Convention**

**2. How many states sent delegates to the Philadelphia convention?**

12 out of 13. Only Rhode Island did not send delegates.

**3. How many delegates attended the Philadelphia convention?**

55 attended.

**4. These 55 delegates came to be known as the what of the U.S. Constitution?**

The Framers

**5. In general, the 55 men who became the Framers of the U.S. Constitution where what?**

For the most part they were highly accomplished men, many of high intellect.

**6. Who were 4 notable delegates at what became the Constitutional Convention?**

George Washington, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton

**7. Who were 2 notable people who were not at the Constitutional Convention?**

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams

**8. Where was the Constitutional Convention held?**

At Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**9. Who was elected as President of the Convention (not to be confused with President of the United States)?**

George Washington (Yep, the same guy who would later be elected President of the United States)

**10. At the time, the deliberations of the convention were kept what?**

Secret

**11. Who is considered the “Father of the Constitution?”**

James Madison of Virginia. Madison kept detailed notes of the proceedings, and exerted great influence on the Convention

**12. How long did the Constitutional Convention last?**

From May 25, 1787 to September 17, 1787

**13. Rather promptly, the Convention decided to do what?**

Scrap the *Articles of Confederation* and replace it with a new constitution. On May 30, 1787 the Convention adopted a proposal made by Virginia's Edmund Randolph "that a national government ought to be established consisting of a supreme Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary."

**14. What would a new constitution do, among other things?**

Replace the *Articles of Confederation*

### 15. What was the *Virginia Plan*?

It was a proposal made by the Virginia delegation. It called for a government with three branches--legislative, executive, and judicial.

It called for a **bicameral** (i.e. two-chambered) **legislature** in which representation per state in each chamber would be apportioned based on a given state's population.

The Virginia plan--particularly the apportionment formula for Congress---was advantageous to states with larger population. Hence, the **Virginia Plan** is known as the **Big State Plan**.

### 16. What was the *New Jersey Plan*?

It was a proposal that came out of the New Jersey delegation. **The New Jersey Plan** is known as the **Small State Plan**.

Under the New Jersey plan the Congress would remain unicameral (one-chambered) with equal representation for each state, no matter what the population of a given state.

The Small State Plan worked to the advantage of states with smaller populations.

## 17. What was the *Connecticut Compromise*?

The Congressional apportionment controversy was solved by a proposal that came out of the Connecticut delegation. It called for a **bicameral congress**, one chamber with representation being apportioned by state populations, the other with representation apportioned equally.

In the Lower House (ultimately the **U.S. House of Representatives**), apportionment would be based on state population. Hence the larger states would receive a larger number of seats in the chamber.

In the Upper House (ultimately the **U.S. Senate**) apportionment would be equal among the states (ultimately **two senators per state**).

The **Connecticut Compromise** solved the biggest problem facing the Constitutional Convention.

The Connecticut Compromise became known as **The Great Compromise**.

## 18. What was the *Three-Fifths Compromise*?

The Constitutional Convention allowed the institution of slavery to continue. Most slaves were in the southern states.

A controversy arose as to whether the slaves should be included in the population count that would determine congressional apportionment.

**Southerners** wanted the **slaves** to be **included** in the count, thus boosting southern representation in congress.

**Northerners** tended to want the **slaves** to be **excluded** from the count, thus boosting northern representation.

The Framers adopted a compromise in which a slave would be counted as **three-fifths of a person** in establishing a count for the purposes of **congressional apportionment** and certain types of taxation.

The **three-fifths clause** of the U.S. Constitution would remain in effect until 1865 when the 13th Amendment outlawed slavery in the United States.



**19. What were two other compromises made during the Constitutional Convention?**

Congress could regulate interstate commerce, but could not tax exports (goods sold to other countries).

Congress could not restrict the importation of slaves for a period of 20 years.

**20. Regarding the new constitution produced by the Philadelphia Convention, one might say it was what?**

“A bundle of compromises”

**21. What did the Constitutional Convention do on September 17, 1787?**

The Convention approved the newly proposed Constitution. Thirty-nine men signed the proposed Constitution.

To go into effect, however, at least **9 out of 13** states had to approve the *United States Constitution*.

The battle for **ratification** had begun.